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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1925.

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S. C. PIERSON, ELECTRICAL POWER PRINTING WORKS.



Hoo Rural District Council.



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GROVE HOUSE,  
ROCHESTER.

*April, 1926.*

*To—*

**The Chairman and Members of the Hoo Rural District  
Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following Report for the year ending December, 1925—it is the Annual Report as to the General Health of the District, and although my tenure of office as Medical Officer only dates from July 1 of that year, I shall endeavour to make the Report as complete as possible. I had the privilege of being the Medical Officer of Health for the Hoo Rural District for 7 years, some years ago, so I am well acquainted with its general characteristics.

The area of 19,727 acres, situated between two large tidal rivers with an undulating surface, is naturally a healthy District, and the absence for many years of any serious outbreak of infectious disease confirms this.

The population being mostly agricultural—and scattered, also tends to decrease this incidence of zymotic diseases. The village of Hoo contains the largest number of dwellers in the area—many of these however live in newly constructed houses where the sanitary arrangements are quite satisfactory.

Besides agricultural work and brick making, many of the workers, especially in the village of Hoo, are engaged at the Admiralty Works at Chattenden, and there are also a certain number working at the Holm & Co.'s Pulp Works, Kingsnorth, Hoo, and the new Medway Oil and Storage Co.'s Works, Isle of Grain.

These works, which produce the "Power Petrol," I inspected a few weeks ago. The sanitary arrangements were quite satisfactory. I believe there are about 140 men employed, but many of these have to live away in the towns, owing to the shortage of dwelling houses, and but for an excellent service of buses there would be great difficulty.

A small outbreak of measles occurred among children attending Hoo St. Mary's School, it was however confined to this area. Three cases of Diphtheria occurred at Decoy Farm Cottages, High Halstow, the children were removed to the Strood District Isolation Hospital, and recovered. I visited the cottage with the Sanitary Inspector and made a report thereon. The Sanitary Inspector as a result has issued a closing order. In the early part of the year, I find there were three cases of Scarlatina, the remains of a small outbreak in the autumn of 1924—these were isolated, and no further cases have arisen.

### General Statistics.

Population at Census, 1921	...	...	...	...	4664
Estimated Population, 1925	...	...	...	...	4752
Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	...	...	...	...	19727
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	1053

### Rateable and Assessable Value.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rateable Value	36399	35223	33656	33656	34964	34421	34421
Assessable Value	27109	25362	27377	27377	28697	28152	28152
Yield of 1d. Rate	114	105	114	114	119	118	118

### Vaccination.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
No. of Children Vaccinated.	74	113	155	78	70	62	42
Conscientious Objectors.	10	9	14	37	31	42	25

### Births.

96 Births were registered during the year, 61 males and 35 females, giving a birth rate of 20.2 per 1000 of the population.



The excess of Births over Deaths (natural increase of population) was 49.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Births registered	96	95	126	115	108	135	90
Birth rate per 1000 population.	20.2	20.2	24.9	26.7	22.3	32.6	21.7
Natural increase in population.	49	48	84	73	52	101	43

### Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	4	3	1
Scarlet Fever ...	3	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis { Pulmonary	7	3	{ M. 1 } F. 2 } 3
Non-pulmonary	3	Nil	M. 1 1
Malaria ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

### Illegitimate Births.

Of the 96 births registered, 5 (4 males and 1 female) were illegitimate. The following table gives the illegitimate rates of the total births since the year 1915:—

	Year.									
	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
No. of Births	104	110	90	90	135	108	115	126	95	96
No. of Illegitimate	3	3	3	6	5	5	4	8	3	5
Illegitimate per 2.8 cent. of total births.	2.8	2.7	3.3	6.6	3.7	4.6	3.4	6.3	3.8	5.2
Deaths of illegitimate children registered.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil

### Marriages.

Marriages at Register Offices	...	...	10
„ Churches	...	...	9
Total	...	...	<hr/> 19 <hr/>

### Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the district—males 24, females 22—total 46, giving a death rate of 8·1 per 1000 population.

In previous years the return was as follows :—

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
No. of deaths	49	43	66	47	34	56	42	28	47	46
Death rate per 1000 population.	11·1	10·8	16·1	11·8	8·2	12·4	10·7	6·2	9·0	8·1

### Infant Mortality.

During the year 4 deaths were registered under 1 year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 41·6 per 1000 births.

The rate in previous years is given as a comparison :—

	Year.									
	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
No. of births	104	110	90	90	135	108	115	126	95	96
No. of deaths	3	3	11	3	7	10	6	4	6	4
Rate per 1000 births.	28·8	27	122	33·3	51·8	92·6	52·1	31·8	62	41·6

### Nursing.

Voluntary Associations for Nursing, 2—Hoo and Stoke.

### Midwives.

This service is under control of the County Council.

### Maternity and Child Welfare Visiting.

Health Visitors appointed by the County Council work in co-operation with us.

### **Laboratory Work.**

The County Council carry out the work free of charge, and Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied free.

### **Public Health Staff.**

Medical Officer of Health, part time.

Sanitary Inspector, part time.

### **Water Supply.**

The District—with the exception of Cooling and the Isle of Grain—is supplied from the mains of the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company.

### **Sewage and Drainage.**

In the Parishes of Hoo, Stoke, Allhallows and Grain, the Rural District Council contract for the emptying of cesspools, privy pits, &c. In the Parishes of High Halstow, Cooling and St. Mary's the work is done by the owners or occupiers.

### **Housing and Town Planning.**

For full details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

The following were registered in the district :—Hoo, 3 ; Stoke, 2 ; Grain, 2 ; Allhallows, 2 ; High Halstow, 5 ; Cooling, 1 ; St. Mary's, 1. Total, 16.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

There are four registered in the district, Hoo, 3 ; Stoke, 1. These are to be inspected in the near future.

### **Bakehouses.**

There are four in the district, Hoo, 2 ; Stoke, 2. These also are to be inspected at the first opportunity.



### Causes of Death in Hoo Rural District, 1925.

Causes of Death. Civilians only.	M.	F.	Causes of Death. Civilians only.	M.	F.
All causes ... ..	24	22	Other Deaths from Violence	1	...
			Other Defined Diseases ...	5	7
Diphtheria... ..	...	1	Deaths of Infants under 1		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory			year ... ..	2	2
System ... ..	1	2			
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...	1	..	Total Births ... ..	61	35
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	1	2			
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	3	2	Legitimate ... ..	57	34
Heart Disease ... ..	5	3	Illegitimate ... ..	4	1
Bronchitis ... ..	...	4			
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	2	...	Population ... ..	475 <sup>2</sup>	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	...			
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	...			
Congenital Debility and Mal-					
formation, Premature Birth...	2	1			

### Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	5	2	3	...	1	2	1	...

## 1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspect- ions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES... (Including Factory Laundries).	10	...	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Working Laundries).	20	...	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises in- cluded in Part 3 of this Report).		...	...
Total ... ..	30	...	...

## 2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.  (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.  (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation {insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
{unsuitable or defective ... ..	...	...	...	...
{not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Offences ... .. (Excluding offences relating to out- work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	...	...	Nil.	Nil.

ALFRED PACKMAN, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

HOO, ROCHESTER,

*April, 1926.*

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hoo Rural  
District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending the 31st December, 1925, in relation to duties discharged as Sanitary Inspector, Inspection Officer under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, Inspector of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and Surveyor of New Buildings.

The work has again included the usual House Inspection, Inspection of Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Slaughterhouses, New Buildings, Infectious Diseases inquiries and general supervision of the work of Scavenging and Cleansing of Sewers in the parishes of Hoo, Allhallows, Stoke and Grain, and the Council's Filter Beds in the parishes of Hoo, Stoke, Allhallows, and St. Mary's, Hoo.

**Infectious Diseases.**

There have been 17 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the past year—including 1 case of Scarlet Fever, and 3 cases of Diphtheria, at High Halstow, also 1 case of Scarlet Fever and 1 case of Diphtheria at Stoke.

The 3 cases of Diphtheria, at High Halstow, were removed to Gravesend Isolation Hospital, the case of Diphtheria, at Stoke, died.

The Council's Isolation Hospital is still being occupied as a private dwelling.

Visits were made, advice given for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, and inspections and disinfections carried out at the premises where cases of infectious disease occurred.

The following Table shows the nature of each notification, together with the Parish in which the cases have occurred :—

Parish.	Total cases notified.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Tuberculosis		Cases removed to Hospital.	Measles.	Pneumonia.
					Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.			
Allhallows ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cooling ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
High Halstow...	5	2	3	...	...	...	3	...	...
Hoo ...	9	...	...	...	5	3	2	...	1
Grain ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
St. Mary's ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stoke ...	4	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	19	3	4	...	7	3	6	...	2

Twenty swabs were taken of suspected Diphtheria and proved negative.

Tests were made in 13 cases of suspected Tuberculosis and proved negative.

I am glad to report that no cases of Infectious Disease were reported from the Parishes of Allhallows, Cooling and St. Mary's. It is gratifying to note the districts have been particularly free from Infectious Disease.

### Housing Acts.

The number of new houses completed during the year :—

(a)	Total	...	...	{	Bungalows	Nil
(b)		...	...	{	Houses	Nil
(c)	By private enterprise				Bungalows	15
					Houses	1



## 1. Unfit Dwelling Houses Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	15
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	10
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the proceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	5

## 2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	10
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## 3. Action Under Statutory Powers :—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—	
	(a) By owners... ..	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations of owners of intention to close ... ..	1



## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—			
(a)	By Owners	...	...	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	Nil

## C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	1
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made	...	Nil
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	Nil

The shortage of housing accommodation in the District still tends towards overcrowding in some dwellings and retards the action for the closing and ultimate demolition of the more dilapidated and insanitary houses.

It is to be hoped that with the Industrial developments which appear to be taking place in the District, that private enterprise will be stimulated and more suitable houses erected in the near future, and unless this does occur, the tendency to overcrowding will become more pronounced.

### Building Bye-Laws.

During the year Plans have been submitted and approved by the Council for the under-mentioned Buildings :

Parish.	Dwelling Houses.	Additions to Dwelling Houses.	Miscellaneous Buildings.	Total.
Allhallows ...	...	1	...	1
Cooling ...	...	...	1	1
High Halstow ...	1	1	2	4
Hoo ...	3	2	8	13
Grain ...	...	...	12	12
St. Mary's ...	...	...	...	...
Stoke ...	...	...	5	5
Totals ...	4	4	28	36

### Petroleum Acts.

Licenses were issued during the year for the storage of Petroleum, Petroleum Oils and Carbide of Calcium in the District ; the Licenses are renewed annually.

To the Medway Oil Storage Company, Isle of Grain, R. Bradford and Co., Miss Pye, Hoo Brick Co., Mr. F. Sands, of Hoo, and Mr. J. C. Holm, of Allhallows.

The premises are inspected to see that the place of storage is kept in accordance with the Act and found satisfactory.

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

There are 16 Dairies and Cowsheds on the Register.

All are systematically inspected, and are, so far as existing powers authorised, in a satisfactory condition.

### Factory and Workshops Acts.

There are 5 Factories, 10 Workshops and 4 Bakehouses upon the Register, and visits and inspections have been made from time to time of the whole and they were found to be fairly satisfactory.

### Slaughter Houses.

There are 4 Registered Slaughter Houses on the Register.

Frequent visits were made to these premises and everything found to be satisfactory.

### Offensive Trades.

There are no Bye-Laws for the Regulation of Offensive Trades in the district.

There have been no Offensive Trades carried on in the district.

### Summary of Work Done.

#### Notices, etc.

	1925.
Intimation Notices served ... ..	2
Statutory Notices served ... ..	3
Letters and personal interviews (22 letters) (60 interviews)	82

### Inspections.

Inspections of premises <i>re</i> Nuisances ... ..	15
House-to-house Inspections under Housing Acts ... ..	10
<i>Re</i> Inspections and visits to works in progress ... ..	70
Inspections of New Buildings ... ..	80
Visits to Factories ... ..	10
„ Workshops ... ..	20
„ Bakehouses ... ..	23
„ Slaughter Houses ... ..	16
„ Dairies, Cowsheds, etc. ... ..	25
„ <i>re</i> Infectious Disease ... ..	30
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	37
	<hr/>
	336
	<hr/>

### Nuisances.

Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	8
Dust Bins provided ... ..	5
Cesspools emptied and drains cleared ... ..	—
Defective drains, etc., repaired ... ..	10
New closets provided ... ..	—
Privies converted into water closets ... ..	—
Privies converted into earth closets ... ..	—

Privies cleansed and repaired...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses drained (improved system)	...	...	...	...	24
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	—
New drain pipes laid	...	...	...	...	—
Roofs, gutters and down pipes repaired and fixed	...	...	...	...	16
Dirty dwellings cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	16
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	4
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease...	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous nuisances	...	...	...	...	20
					118

### Housing Act, &c., 1925.

Chief defects found to exist in the 15 houses inspected :—

Defective earth closets.  
 Offensive and dilapidated privies.  
 Defective drains and cesspools.  
 Defective water closets.  
 Dilapidated out-houses.  
 Dampness.  
 Dirty walls, ceilings, &c.  
 Defective or insufficient gutters and down pipes.  
 Defective walls, ceilings, floors, windows, stairs, &c.  
 Defective roofs, chimneys, &c.  
 Broken and worn-out fire stoves.  
 Defective vent and soil pipes.

The majority of these defects have been remedied without resorting to Statutory methods.

There are a great number of defective privies in the district, and I am glad to report that I am receiving the support of property owners in the conversion of these privies into pail system.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. STIMPSON,

*Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.*







